Pakistan's Reluctance to Grant India Men Status

1042. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a reported statement by the Pakistan Commerce Secretary expressing that country's reluctance to grant India the 'Most Favoured Nation' status;

(b) in case, the report is true, whether there is any proposal to take up the matter with the World Trade Organisation; and

(c) whether this matter is also intended to be sorted out with the assistance of the SAARC Secretariat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BULLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) It has been reported that while speaking to newspersons at a luncheon meeting of the SAARC Committee on Econoic Cooperation organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 28 October 1996, the Pakistan Commerce Secretary mentioned that the Pakistani Government is examining reports presented by its trade and other bodies on ways to enhance trade and economic cooperation with India, including infrastructure, subsidies and non-tariff barriers. He is reported to have stated that the delay in extending MFN status arose out of inadequate rail and road infrastructure.

While there is no proposal at present to raise the issue of reluctance of Pakistan to grant MFN status to imports from India in the World Trade Organisation, this issue has been taken up with Pakistan bilaterally through diplomatic channels. The SAARC Charter does not provide for any formal discussion of bilateral issues.

Iron-Ore Mines Under SAIL

1043. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iron ore mines under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the location thereof;

(b) whether Government have a proposal for expansion of mining activities in some of those mines during 9th Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) SAIL operates nine Iron Ore Mines as given below:—

1.	Kiriburu	Bihar
2.	Meghahataburu	Bihar
3.	Gua	Bihar
4.	Chiria	Bihar
5.	Barsua	Orissa
6.	Kalta	Orissa
7.	Bolani	Orissa
8.	Dalli	M.P.
9.	Rajhara	M.P.

(b) Investment proposals for 9th Plan period have not yet been finalised.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour

1044. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The action taken report on the recommendations of National Commission on Rural Labour has already been laid on the Table of the House on 03.02.1993.

Proposal to divide KVIC into four separate bodies

1045. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to divide the existing KVIC into four separate bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the large administrative structure of KVIC is impeding proper administrative supervision; and